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Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/70/150.

** The information contained in the present addendum was received after the deadline for the submission of the main report.

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II. Replies received from Governments

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

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In the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there is no absolute guarantee against the threat or use of nuclear weapons other than their total elimination. Nuclear disarmament is an obligation that cannot be replaced by nuclear weapon reductions and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones or by any other arrangement or mechanism short of the total, irreversible and internationally verifiable elimination of all nuclear weapons globally, in accordance with a universal, legally binding instrument that also ensures that they will never be produced again.

As unanimously concluded by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 8 July 1996, taking all necessary practical measures for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons worldwide, including to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control, is a legal obligation to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are committed under its article VI. It is imperative that the obligations under article VI be urgently fulfilled in order to remove the threat posed to humanity by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and to prevent the further frustration of the non-nuclear-weapon States and the consistent erosion of the validity, effectiveness and credibility of that important international instrument.

While stressing the need to preserve the momentum on nuclear disarmament created, in part, by the first-ever high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, and the three Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2013 and 2014, Iran underlines the importance of the urgent and full implementation of the provisions of resolution 68/32, through which the Assembly, among other things, called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction. Iran strongly holds that such a comprehensive convention is the only practical way to achieve the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and can, in no way, be replaced by unilateral or bilateral initiatives or other similar arrangements.

While reiterating its support for the urgent commencement of negotiations for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, Iran is of the view that such a convention, as a universal, non-discriminatory, legally binding instrument, inter alia, should:

- Prohibit, forever, without exception and under any circumstances, research on and the development, testing, production, possession, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices worldwide;

- Identify, within a phased programme, a clear and unextendable deadline for the total elimination of all types of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices worldwide;
- Prohibit, forever, without exception and under any circumstances, research on and the production, possession, acquisition, transfer and stockpiling of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices worldwide;
- Identify, within a phased programme, a clear and unextendable deadline for the total elimination or the conversion to materials usable exclusively for peaceful purposes of all existing fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices worldwide;
- Prohibit, forever, without exception and under any circumstances, the planning for or the construction of any installation or facility relating to research on and the production of any type of nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device worldwide;
- Identify, within a phased programme, a clear and unextendable deadline for the total destruction of all the installations or facilities relating to research on or the production of any type of nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device worldwide;
- Prohibit, forever, without exception and under any circumstances, any kind of direct or indirect cooperation or assistance, encouragement or inducement of any activity prohibited under the convention or incompatible, in any way, with its object and purpose;
- Confirm, explicitly, that its main objective is to ensure that there is no type of nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device, no fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive device, no installation or facility relating to research on or the production of any type of nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device or any activity prohibited under the convention or incompatible, in any way, with its object and purpose worldwide;
- Establish a robust international verification mechanism to ensure the total absence of any type of nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device, any amount of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, any installation or facility relating to research on or the production of any type of nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device or any other activity prohibited under the convention or incompatible, in any way, with its object and purpose, and to ensure the sustainability of such a situation worldwide;
- Be of indefinite duration and enter into force after its ratification by all States possessing nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.